

Create In Me A Clean Heart

(Psalm 51)

- Introduction:
1. Psalm 51 is numbered among the seven psalms of penitence (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, & 143).
 2. While this psalm comes during some of David's darkest days, its message not only conveys David's burden of guilt, but also presents God's amazing grace and forgiveness.
 3. Prior to 2 Samuel 11, David has walked faithfully with God.
 - a. He has faithfully waited for God's timing in the removal of Saul and his own ascension to the throne.
 - b. He had won numerous victories over his enemies.
 - c. David's career was at an all-time high, but his personal life was about to hit an all-time low.

I. The Setting For David's Sin

- A. (2 Samuel 11:1-12:13).
- B. Note the progression of his sin.
- C. Note David's plan for covering his sin.
- D. David was condemned by his own judgment.

II. Psalm 51

- A. David Realized The Facts Of His Sin (Psalm 51:3-6).
 1. David's concern has changed.
 2. His focus is no longer on the allure of a woman, the passion of the moment, or the challenge of a cover-up, but on the magnitude of his rebellion.
- B. David Turned To God (Psalm 51:1-2, 7-14).
 1. David realizes his inability to deal with his sin, so he turns to God.
 2. Perhaps David recalls what had happened to Saul (1 Samuel 16:13-14).
 3. Blot out (v.1); Wash me (v.2); Cleanse me (v.2); Purge me (v.7); Hide your face from my sins (v.9); Create in me a clean heart (v.10); Do not cast me away (v.11); Do not take your Holy Spirit from me (v. 11); Restore (v.12); Uphold (v.12).
 4. David's expectation of God doing all this is not rooted in his ability, or a minimization of his sin, or even on his ability to avoid it in the future, but rather is rooted in the character of God (Psalm 103:10-11).
- C. David Pledges To Live Better (Psalm 51:13-15).
 1. David isn't attempting to negotiate with God, rather his is truly broken and vows to do better.
 2. Who has more reason to teach transgressors, and sing of his righteousness than one who has been forgiven.

- Conclusion:
1. Psalm 51 teaches us much about the nature of God and the appropriate response to sin.
 2. David's experience of forgiveness changed his life, and the record of that experience should change ours.